

the United States. If anyone such as Abul Abbas or his conspirators can be discovered in our country, perhaps other destructive attacks may be averted.

Mr. President, on this, the tenth anniversary of the *Achille Lauro* tragedy, the threat of terrorism is undiminished. It is our responsibility to act collectively to thwart forces pursuing these acts and to block the financiers condoning international terrorist activity. We need action and we need it now. Our people cannot continue to endure the deprivations of these extremist murderers. Thank you Mr. President. ●

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 1357

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, we have now reached the point where there is no further debate time allowed under the statute that governs this reconciliation bill, including time allotted to Senator ROTH for the Finance Committee amendment. I am informed by the Democratic leader that they will have 30 or more amendments or points of order that they intend to offer and get votes on prior to passage.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that all remaining votes after the first vote tomorrow be limited to 7½ minutes and each Senator with an amendment is asked to submit a one-line description of their amendment to the chairman for him to read in explanation of the amendment, and that Senator MIKULSKI be permitted to offer a motion to instruct the conferees prior to the vote on final passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I object.

Mr. President, let me take a moment to explain. I am extremely distressed, concerned and apprehensive about what is going to happen tomorrow. All night I have been asking to see the amendment that the Finance Committee is going to offer as its final amendment in the so-called tier two. And now at 12:17 a.m., we have yet to receive a copy of this amendment.

Under the agreement that was reached previously, we are going to be placed in a situation which this amendment of undetermined length but, I anticipate, significant length and complexity, is going to be offered with 10 minutes to debate equally divided, and then ostensibly a vote.

I object to that procedure, and until a satisfactory resolution can be achieved, either in terms of agreeing to extend the time of debate so there can be reasonable opportunity to understand what is in that Finance Committee amendment or, if there is an unwillingness to provide for that ex-

tended debate, then at a minimum, a reading of the Finance Committee amendment, so that we will all have an opportunity to know its contents before we are called on to vote on it, will be insisted upon or at least will be a condition of granting consent to the request which has now been made.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I hope the Senator from Florida will not object. There are three provisions in this unanimous consent request that specifically assist Democratic Senators. First, we want to protect the Senator from Maryland to offer her motion to instruct. Second, we want to give Democratic Senators the opportunity to explain all of the 30-plus amendments that we have available to us. And third, we are accommodating another Senator in starting when we are to assure that she does not miss the first vote.

So I hope that after all the negotiations that we have made in good faith on both sides that the agreement, which has nothing to do with the Roth amendment, would be allowed to be accommodated, and we will, as I have given him my word, deal with the Roth amendment to accord additional time and additional understanding tomorrow.

This agreement has nothing to do with tier two. It only has to do with the third tier, directly affecting virtually every Democratic amendment still pending.

So I hope that the Senator will not object, and we could work with Republican managers tomorrow to accommodate the concerns, legitimate as they are. There are concerns I share in terms of attempting to better understand what the Roth amendment would do.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I am still compelled to object, unless as part of this unanimous-consent request some unanimous consent provision is inserted which will deal with the Roth amendment, either a unanimous-consent request to expand the time for consideration of the Roth amendment or a unanimous-consent request that no motion to waive the reading of the Roth amendment would be in order. Either of those two would be acceptable, the first being much more preferable.

When we adopted this unanimous-consent agreement that set up the procedure for the three-tier system of consideration, I did not contemplate that at this late moment we were going to receive a major Finance Committee amendment with no opportunity to know its contents, understand its implications and be in a position to cast an informed vote as to its acceptability.

I am particularly concerned, Mr. President, about the provisions that might relate to Medicare and Medicaid, which I understand are going to be two of the areas covered by the Roth amendment.

These have great importance to all of the citizens of America, and especially to the citizens of my State. I intend to fully understand what the implications of any changes are before the matter is brought before the Senate for a vote.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me reiterate, I have great sympathy for the Senator from Florida. It is his right to ask for a reading, and it would take unanimous consent to dispense with the reading. So the Senator is protected under the rules, should he choose to have the amendment read.

I hope that he will recognize that we will certainly work, as I have throughout this process, with him and all of our Democratic colleagues, to protect our rights, to ensure that Senators are accommodated. I will work with him in this regard as well. We just need to get on with the business of moving this legislation, as it relates to all of our amendments.

This largely is an agreement that we have requested. It would undermine my ability to deal with the leader as it relates to disposing of these amendments were we not to get this unanimous consent request tonight.

Mr. GRAMS. Shall I renew the request?

Mr. GRAHAM. I will object until some provision is inserted that either provides for adequate time to consider the Roth amendment, or a statement that no motion to waive the reading of the Roth amendment would be in order.

Mr. GRAMS. I will tell the Senator from Florida that it will be the majority leader's intention to attempt to shorten the votes from 15 minutes to 7½ minutes beginning tomorrow morning at 9:15.

Mr. GRAHAM. It would be my intention to resist those efforts until such time as we can be assured that there is adequate opportunity to be informed of and knowledgeable about the provisions in the Roth amendment.

I think it is an outrage that now, at 12:22 a.m., we are yet to be provided with a copy of what will probably be the most significant proposal on this most significant legislation.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, again, I would like to say that we will attempt to talk with the majority leader and Chairman ROTH in the morning to try and accommodate the request of the Senator from Florida. We cannot do that any more this evening. Those efforts will be made in the morning.

Mr. GRAHAM. We will all gather.